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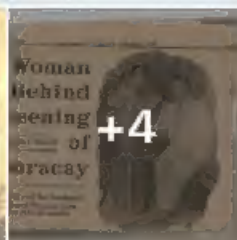
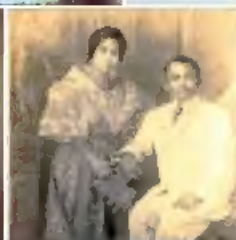
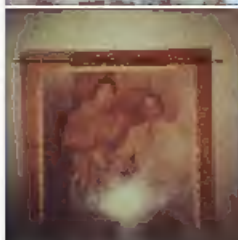
Jta Tirol Andan

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"Lola Sofing"

A Woman of Courage and Perseverance



Jta Tirol Andan contributed to the album: **Photos of Sofia Ner Gonzales vda. de Tirol in Descendants of Fray Mamerto and Don Lino Ner of Cavite.**

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In Memoriam: Sofia Ner Gonzales vda. de Tirol – My Lola Sofing
by Jessica "Jing" Denosta Tirol – Andan (10/30/20)
updated

Only when people pass on do we realize how long they have been in our lives, and how they left little footprints in our hearts, which footprints became the rich legacy they have left to us. Sofia Ner Gonzales was born on April 1, 1879 in Sta. Cruz Manila. She was the fourth child of Dr. Cipriano Gomez Gonzales and Florentina Quijano Ner of Salinas, Cavite.

Dr. Cipriano Gomez Gonzales (Don Panoy) was the first surgeon of Panay, and among those first batch of 13 Physicians who received a degree in Medicine together with our National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal in the University of Sto. Tomas where he graduated with honors. Among his known classmates and contemporaries was Dr. Luis de Castro who became Dean of the College of Medicine in the same University. In family historical accounts, it is told that Dr. Cipriano Gomez Gonzales had a

close friend, Jose Ner, who was responsible for his meeting his one true love, Florentina Quijano Ner. He later became a Professor and one of his students was Emilio Aguinaldo. Another historical account has it that Florentina Quijano Ner was also a medical student and likewise successfully graduated as a physician.

Lola Sofing, as she was fondly called, was one of the first graduates of Sta. Catalina College in Intramuros, Manila. She married the late Capitan Lamberto Hontiveros Tirol of Aklan who formerly held a post as Presidente Municipal of Makato, Aklan (Mayor). He was later appointed as Juez de Paz (Municipal Judge) of Buruanga, Capiz.

Their wedding was celebrated at the Tirol Building formerly called the Gonzales Building which later on changed its name when the Gonzales family sold the same to Ciriaco Tirol.

It is also worthy to note that the marriage of Lolo Lamber and Lola Sofing was one of an "arranged marriage" set up by Don Pancy, Lola Sofing's father.

They were blest with nine children: Belen (died during infancy), Florentina (died at the age of 9 years old), Edna Elsie m/t Judge Ramon Kimpo, Rizalina m/t Dr. Garciano Argenal Rojo, Araceli m/t Jaime Marie, Sol m/t BIR Commissioner Atty. Bernardo Carpio, Atty. Demosthenes m/t Sylvia .Gonzales, Haide (the youngest) m/t Judge Jose Solidum and my father Josel m/t a public school teacher Lolita Amoroso Denosta. The latter couple bore five children: Dra. Jocelyn Tirol – Dignos m/t Engr. Prospero Dignos, Gabalme Tirol m/t Meredith Talamisan, Josel Tirol Jr., Roberto Tirol m/t Angelina De- Martin and yours truly Jessica Tirol Andan m/t Dr. Virgilio N. Andan of Cebu. We were blessed with two children: Atty. Maria Iodine Tirol Andan – Dolino m/t Engr. Keith Wesley Dolino (their daughters are Kassandra Jezka Andan Dolino and Kendra Mckailey Dolino) and Dr. James Kenneth Tirol Andan.

Lola Sofing became a young widow when Lolo Lamber met his Maker in 1924. She was left to tend to their seven (7) Children and continued working and manning their little island in Boracay with the help of her encargados in order to raise her children well, give them good education for them to become respectable worthy citizens of the community. She was a very strict and stern Lola, but most importantly, she was kind and generous. I should know. I grew up under her watch and care. Looking back, I was quite in awe at the realization of how remarkable for a young widow to do all what Lola Sofing did during her lifetime that she was seen by many people as a woman of strength, courage and perseverance.

Her son, and my father, Papa Josel G. Tirol, Sr. also met his Maker at an early age, leaving my Mama Lolita Hontiveros a young

maker at an early age, leaving my Mama Lola likewise a young widow with five (5) Children to tend. Being a widow herself, Lola Sofing pitied my Mama, so she opted to accompany us and stayed with us in Tangalan for a number of years after my Papa's death. Tangalan then became Sofia's second home. Every time she goes home from Tangalan back to Boracay I always accompanied her. I remember how my cousins and friends would tease me and call me "Lola's Girl". I miss you, Lola Sofing!

When she finally bid farewell on January 20, 1989 at the age of 110 years old, she left her "footprints" not only in the white sands of Boracay, but also in the hearts of those whose lives she has touched dearly. Lola Sofing indeed lived a much fulfilled and fruitful life as she was called the "Woman behind the Greening of Boracay".

Not a day goes by that I don't stop to give remembrance to the Lola who tended and nourished the legacy Lolo Lamber and Lola Sofing gave to us. As I look back to the days when the island was young I truly appreciate with all my heart the very hands that tended it, whose life was spent tending the island, her children and grandchildren, to honor her beloved Lamber. Yes, I have always known and understood every time she says, "guin bacal co it akong cabuhi ro Boracay ngara" (I bought with my life this piece of land in Boracay).

  You, Cassandra Dta Dolino, Mary Ann Tikim and 6 others

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